

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 20, 1896.

Hints to Xmas Shoppers

Time's precious this week. Useful articles make the most appropriate gifts. Prompt service, reliable merchandise, the largest variety, and by far the lowest prices make our three busy stores the shopping centers for all prudent Holiday Shoe Buyers. Here are some hints of what will make

Seasonable and Sensible Gifts:

FOR CHILDREN.	FOR LADIES.	FOR MEN.
Knit Woolen Slippers..... 50c	Black Cashmere Slippers..... 25c	Silk-worked Velvet House Slippers..... 50c
Knit Woolen Slippers..... 75c	Knit Woolen Slippers..... 50c	Chenille-embroidered velvet-lined Velvet House Slippers..... 75c
Knit Woolen Slippers..... 75c	Knit Woolen Slippers..... 50c	12 pretty styles plush and soft leather \$1.00 Slippers..... \$1.00
Knit Woolen Slippers..... 75c	Knit Woolen Slippers..... 50c	Best quality wool-lined Buckle Ankle Slippers..... \$1.25
Knit Woolen Slippers..... 75c	Knit Woolen Slippers..... 50c	Hand-sewn tan or black "House" Slippers..... \$1.25
Knit Woolen Slippers..... 75c	Knit Woolen Slippers..... 50c	Elegant made, chambray and kid-lined, softest black and brown Velveteen Slippers..... \$1.50
Knit Woolen Slippers..... 75c	Knit Woolen Slippers..... 50c	Splendid Cat and Rubber Boot..... \$2.50
Knit Woolen Slippers..... 75c	Knit Woolen Slippers..... 50c	Genuine Canadian Skating Shoes..... \$3.00
Knit Woolen Slippers..... 75c	Knit Woolen Slippers..... 50c	Hand-made Winter Russel Slippers..... \$3.00
Knit Woolen Slippers..... 75c	Knit Woolen Slippers..... 50c	Imported Patent Leather Walking and Full Dress hand-made Shoes..... \$3.00
Knit Woolen Slippers..... 75c	Knit Woolen Slippers..... 50c	

Go as Bought Before Xmas May Be Exchanged After the Holidays.

McHannell's
RELIABLE SHOE HOUSES

1914 and 1916 Pa. Ave. 930 and 932 7th Street. 233 Pa. Ave. S. E.

AEROSTATIC RAILWAY.

Passenger Car Pulled Up a Mountain by a Balloon.

New York Herald.

The official stamp of approval has just been put on the most novel railroad that has ever been built. A balloon is to be the propelling power used in carrying passengers to and from the top of the Hochstaufen Mountain, at Basle, Switzerland, a beautiful water-falling place in the Austrian Alps.

The scheme is known as the aerostatic railway, and is the brainchild of Engineer Volkmann. He has spent twenty years of his life in perfecting this scheme, and has at last secured a body of engineering experts which has said that the scheme proposed is feasible and safe on the recommendation of the local authorities have sanctioned the road's construction up the mountain.

Basle, Switzerland, a summer place, visited each season by thousands of persons, but only natives, but travelers from other countries, who have been drawn there to take the waters. The top of the Hochstaufen Mountain offers a most lovely view, but the climb to the summit is a tedious and uninviting one. The well-trodden path of the mountain climber, however, is a steep slope, varied but little, and this makes the climb a most unattractive one. Here the most unattractive view presents itself, and it is one which no sojourner in the neighborhood permits himself to neglect. The power by which visitors are to climb this mountain is furnished by a captive balloon. This runs along a track built at the

side of the road. A trailer, furnished with many wheels, claps this wooden rail, and to this trailer the passenger car is fastened. The operator has a seat in the car, and a cord swings between his place and the balloon, by which the gas supply is regulated. He has also several brakes and safety devices at hand in case of accident.

At the foot of this unique railroad is a large station, and the car starts down the mountain, and when the gas has been mounted, and all is ready for the return down the mountain, a small quantity of gas is released, and the car starts down, its rapid descent being checked by the gas that has been allowed to remain in the balloon.

The construction of the aerostatic railway was not without its difficulties. The road was planned by the most successful investigation had been made of the plans. There are many novel safety devices to prevent any serious accidents.

BABY BORN WITH TEETH.

Has Them Extracted at the Advanced Age of Five Days.

St. Louis Republic.

"Ain't dat chile a honey? He's jus' like I was when I was no older 'n him. Never hear a whimper outen him. He ain't raise a howl since he 'as born."

Thus spoke Henry Rhodes, colored, at the city dispensary yesterday afternoon. The subject of his remarks was in his arms, a chubby, dark-faced pickaninny. The child is only five days old, yet he had just undergone without a cry an operation from

which most adults shrink—that of having two teeth extracted. Baby Rhodes came into the world with two full-grown incisor teeth in his lower jaw. This pleased his father, principally because of an extraordinary coincidence.

When Rhodes, senior, was born, thirty years ago, he, too, had two lower incisor teeth, precisely like those with which his first baby was blessed. But while the baby's "teeth" were filled with the father with joy, the mother, who had to nurse him, was not so pleased. So yesterday she entered an objection to nursing a baby with teeth, and the visit to the dispensary resulted.

Dr. Lippe examined the child, and reached the conclusion that the teeth would interfere with his taking nourishment in the orthodox manner, so he extracted them. The child bore the operation well, and now Dr. Lippe is congratulating himself with having treated the youngest dental patient on record.

Told His Story in Latin.

At the time of the peace jubilee Dr. C. B. Porter of Boston returned to his office one day, and found the slate in the hall covered with Latin words and signed O. W. Holmes.

He immediately got down his dictionary, and with much effort discovered that he had been to the peace jubilee, had sailed his boots thoroughly with dirt that he did not like to go down town in such a plight, and had stopped and asked Mr. Porter's servant for a footbrush that he might clean up his boots; and he had dignified this rather mental performance by writing it all in Latin and leaving it on the slate. —Chicago Chronicle.

THE SENATOR'S SECRETARY AND THE FINANCIAL QUESTION

"This thing is a bigger puzzle than a tariff schedule," said Johnnie Beck, private secretary to Senator Fought, as he met a friend on the Avenue a few days ago.

The "old man," as Johnnie affectionately called him, was on a stringing tour to the backwoods of his State, and one of his constituents had written to learn "by return mail" what the Senator's financial views were.

"You are evading the issue," the letterer stated. "I want to know what you stand for in Washington, and if we don't hear from you at once, you will hear from us when some of your supporters in the State legislature fail to get there again."

"That's it, you see," said Johnnie, as he read the letter aloud. "The old man is trying to force the issue and steer 'em up against thistles and beet, and everything except gold and silver. He's hiding down in the weeds making speeches where he thinks they'll be least likely to ask him the question he doesn't want to hear."

"What are you going to do?" asked Johnnie's friend.

"I've got to go. You see I had a long caucus with myself over the proposition and decided that the old man must quit sitting on the fence and answer myself."

"But they didn't want to hear from you."

"They didn't hear from me," said Johnnie. "They heard from the old man. I signed his name and I didn't lay the financial question on the table either."

"Come out for silver?"

"Come out? I value to lead the typewriter, stamped the letters instead of just thinking them. I came out and walked up and down and around two letter sheets, and I played all those fancy touches on the Wall street, gold bugs, the people and all that. Oh! I came out all right. There is no compromise about me, and the old man will have to cut slaying away from the session for fear somebody will know what his vote is."

A few days later, as Johnnie was religiously reading through the rural papers from the Senator's State, he came across something that must have pained him deeply. He was a troubled and turbulent air all afternoon, and in the evening went down to his friend's boarding house. Here one of his speeches in the Parliament Review, with a lot of stuff in it about stable currency, loaned money, etc. It looks as if he put it out for a reader just before getting ready to jump. Now, if he has jumped that way he'll have to jump back again very fast when that letter gets out.

"But, perhaps, he won't know anything about it for a week yet."

"Oh, yes, he will. He's to be at State Convention tomorrow, and that's where the letter went. Richardson's membership will happen tomorrow, and that bright and beautiful metropolitan of the plains, and I am afraid it will happen to the old man."

It does, then, seem likely to be an executive session between him and me when he gets East.

"Oh, he can work off international bimetalism on them, and tell them that's what he meant."

"Not in State Center. You don't know the people in that town. Half of them don't know what the phrase means, and the other half would make it quite popular for the man who told them that State Center had to wait until the other nations agreed to what State Center stamped O. K."

The next day Johnnie opened a telegram addressed to Senator Fought. It was from State Center and it read:

"Your letter received. The whole city will turn out tomorrow night to hear your statement on the money and start your boom for another term."

That was a little better. Johnnie was sure

It was all right unless the Senator had

flopped to gold in the

backwoods.

The following day

brought another tele-

gram. It was from

the Senator.

"Have just arrived

here (State Center)

and discovered in my

views on the finan-

cial question. Can't

you also let me know

what I think of the

tariff, the Eastern

question, corn fodder

and the Knipp cure?"

"Now that sounds

farcical, doesn't it?"

said Johnnie to his

friend that night. "I can't make out

whether he's mad or not. I hope the old

man won't go to that meeting and rise

to a point of order."

It was a week before Johnnie sought

out his friend at the boarding house.

"Everything's all right," he shouted gal-

lantly as he entered. "The old man wrote me

but he had made a great hit. But he had

a little trouble to straighten out, though."

"With the backwoods people?"

"No, but all on account of them. You

see he walked into the grand rally at State

Center and in the first five minutes he

back part of the hall

while he listened to

the reading of his

letter from Washing-

ton. Of course, they

rushed him up to the

front of the hall, and

just started in on a

free silver speech

when a man got up

and asked him how

he could be talking

gold in the southern

part of the State."

"That was a staggerer."

"Not for him. Not for the Hon. Friend

Bought. Here's the speech in full in

the State Center Citizen and here's how

the old man replied:

"A very natural question, my friend.

Now, my fellow-citizens, when my sec-

retary in Washington wired me the con-

tents of the letter of inquiry addressed

to me by our honored chairman, I at once

telegraphed my answer to Washington,

whence it was sent to you. I was willing,

my fellow-citizens, that you should re-

main in ignorance of the fact that I was

in our beloved State until I had tested

the real temper of our rural districts by

the method of assuming to plead a case

in which I did not believe."

"Not bad for a starter, is it?" said

Johnnie, as he paused to contemplate the

full heads of the

peroration. "But listen

to this—"

"I had determined,

my friends, to re-

serve my first pub-

lic announcement of

my position until I

could reach this, the

most important city

in our grand State,

knowing full well

that from such a

central point the

echo of my senti-

ments would perme-

ate the furthestmost

point of our Coun-

try. I was deter-

mined to reach this

city by the most

direct route, and

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